



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**

**State Fire Safety Board Meeting**

MRA Sun Room – 2407 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906  
Thursday, March 17, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Julie Bulson, Representing Hospital Administrators  
Steven Densmore, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula  
Timothy Dockerty, Representing Owners of Adult Foster Care Facilities  
Randall Halstead, Liquefied Petroleum or Flammable Compressed Gas Industry  
Kenneth Herbart, Chair, Representing Registered Architects  
Ruth Ann Knapp, Representing School Board Administrators/Members  
Tavis Millerov, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula  
Richard Prestage, Representing the Nursing Home Industry  
Dylan Rogers, Representing Places of Public Assemblage  
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal/Director, Ex-Officio Member  
Brian Talvensaari, Representing Fire Departments in the Upper Peninsula  
David Williams, Representing the Licensed Electrical Contractors (Present until 1:50 pm)  
Robert Williams, Representing the Building Trades

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Andrew Marceau, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula  
Jeramie Morris, Vice Chair, Representing the Chemical Manufacturing Industry  
Patrick Phelan, Representing the Professional Engineers  
Ora Wolf, Representing the Flammable Liquids Industry

**OTHER BUREAU ATTENDEES:**

Hollie Metts, LARA/BFS, Executive Secretary  
Joe Forro, LARA/BFS, State Administrative Manager

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bob Meagher

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

The State Fire Safety Board meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Chairman Kenneth Herbart lead all attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by executive secretary, Hollie Metts. A quorum was determined present.

## **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**22-03-01**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Steven Densmore** and seconded by **Board Member David Williams** to approve the meeting agenda for March 17, 2022, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**22-03-02**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Ruth Ann Knapp** and seconded by **Board Member Robert Williams** to approve the meeting minutes from December 2, 2021, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Bob Meagher, Retired CFPS** inquired about the possibility of having an online database to look up NFPA 1031 certified individuals. Currently, there is not a public facing online look-up. Mr. Meagher also asked if it would be possible to break down the fatal fire data further into subtypes by occupancies (handout provided to the board on the specific subtypes in the International Building Code).

## **V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

- a. **Bureau Updates:** The Fire Marshal gave an update on retirements, internal promotions, and the Region 2 Coordinator vacancy in the Fire Fighter Training Division. The bureau also kicked off a new employee driven strategic plan on April 20, 2022.
- b. **2022 Fireworks Season:** The consumer fireworks application period is open until April 1, 2022. The board should expect appeals to review in the fall. The Fire Marshal also reported out on fireworks enforcement activities, including fire safety fee audits being done by the Department of Treasury.
- c. **Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier reported the revised rules became effective on November 3, 2021. Staff have been working diligently to implement the changes in the rules. Also, the Fire Instructor II curriculum and written exam have been developed and a train-the-trainer was conducted on December 17, 2021. Staff will work on the Fire Officer III curriculum next.
- d. **Firefighting Foam Training Video:** The training video on how to safely use Class B firefighting foam has been completed. The video was shared with the board members. This training is mandatory for all Michigan firefighters.
- e. **Class B Foam Collection and Disposal Program:** The collection program and disposal program is currently on hold pending additional funding. The program will continue once the funding has been secured.
- f. **Fatal Fire Stats:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an update on the 2022 fire fatalities. To date:
  1. There have been 41 fire related deaths in 35 fires.
  2. This is a 22% increase in year-to-date deaths and a 24% increase in year-to-date fires as compared to the 2017-2021 average.
  3. Most common reported areas of origin are: 1) Living Room (33%), 2) Bedroom (27%), and 3) Kitchen (3%).

4. Most common reported fire causes: 1) Smoking (59%), 2) Electrical (12%), and 3) Cooking (6%).
5. Residents between the ages of 40 and 79 years old are at the greatest risk (65%).
6. 30% of fatal fire victims are disabled.

**g. Staff Introduction:** The Fire Marshal introduced Joe Forro to the board. Joe is the manager who oversees the field, plan review, and storage tank operations at the bureau.

**VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

- a. HB 4171 and HB 4172 (Cancer Presumption for Firefighters):** Passed.
- b. House Bill 4077 (unattended fueling):** No updates to report.
- c. HB 4382 (Smoke alarms):** No updates to report but expect future movement, to include a sealed battery requirement.
- d. General Discussion:**
  - i. Regarding smoke alarms, Board Member Tavis Millerov shared the state of New York requires a ten-year lithium-ion battery and that the sensors can go bad before the batteries expire.
  - ii. Board Member Millerov also inquired about possible legislation for marijuana grows and shut offs for utilities overuse).
  - iii. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier also shared there is another bill concerning door locking (bill number unknown) that would allow one sided locks on school doors. Board Member Julie Bulson shared her concerns. Specifically, individuals/students with mental health issues and first responders/help not being able to get in to help if one sided locks were installed on the school doors.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**IX. STATE FIRE SAFETY BOARD COMMENT:**

**Board Member Ruth Ann Knapp** inquired about the location where the foam is being disposed of.

**Board Member Randall Halstead** shared he thought the utility companies could be a possible partner to help MI Prevention with in-home smoke alarms installations.

**X. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

**22-03-03**

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Robert Williams** and seconded by **Board Member Tavis Millerov** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting:**

Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Location: MRA Sun Room - 2407 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906

**APPROVED:** September 15, 2022 Regular Meeting (Motion #22-09-02)